

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

Claims 1-3, 10-12, 15, 16, 19, 22, 25, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sachs in view of either Anderson or Deards.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim in view of either Anderson or Deards.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 31, 34, 45, 48, 50, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sachs in view of either Lim or LaRosa, and in further view of either Anderson or Deards.

Claims 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42, 44, 47, 49, 53, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable “over the references as applied to claims 1-7” in further view of Gilchrist.

Claims 37 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sachs in view of Lim, and in further view of Anderson or Deards.

Claims 12, 20, 26, 32, 38, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable “over the references as applied to claims 1-7” in further view of Gluckenberger.

Claims 55 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable “over the references as applied to claims 1-7 and 53” in further view of Smyth.

Claim 63 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable “over the references as applied to claim 54” in further view of Venturini.

Claims 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable “over the references as applied to claims 55, 59, and 63” in further view of Chester.

Claims 57, 61, and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable “over the references as applied to claims 55, 59, and 63” in further view of Gluckenberger.

Claim 67 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt in view of either Anderson or Deards.

With this Amendment claims 1-7, 52-55, 59, 63, and 67 are amended.

II. Objection to the Drawings Under 37 CFR 1.83(a)

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) “with regard to the method steps claimed in claims 55-66”.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the objection. Nevertheless, in order to facilitate prosecution, with this response the Applicant adds new figure Fig. 8 and amends the Specification to accommodate the new figure. No new matter has been added.

The Applicant respectfully submits that, and least with this response, the drawings are in compliance with 37 CFR 1.83(a), and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). With this response, the Applicant amends each of the independent claims in accordance with suggestions provided by the Examiner during the February 12th interview to include:

“... wherein said envelope is defined by areas of said envelope that are intact and interrupt the zone of weakness”.

In an informal facsimile communication sent February 14th, the Examiner brought EP 0 341 739 A2 (Greyvenstein) to the attention of the Applicant with the notation:

“Note column 5 lines 28-30. The connectors 55 appear to function like ‘stops’.”
(emphasis added)

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended in providing this facsimile communication, but respectfully submits that Greyvenstein and the cited art, taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest at least the above-quoted aspect of the claims as amended herewith.

For instance, the Applicant observes that “‘tacking’ connectors 55” (see Greyvenstein col. 5 ln. 28), do not provide “areas … that are intact and interrupt [a] zone of weakness” as stated by the claims as amended herewith, but instead provide intact areas that interrupt “elongated continuous cut[s]”:

“Where there is an elongated continuous cut, small tacking connectors may be provided to hold the material in a constant location.”
(see Greyvenstein col. 2 ln. 21-23; emphasis added)

“Referring to Fig. 8 … [a] few small tacking connectors 78 are provided at the cuts 74”
(See Greyvenstein Fig. 8 and col. 5 ln. 55 – col. 6 ln. 9; emphasis added)

(See also Fig. 5 of Greyvenstein)

The Applicant believes it clear that an “elongated continuous cut” is not at all like “a zone of weakness” as stated by the claims (e.g., “a perforated line”).

In view of at least the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for her courtesy in granting the February 12th interview and in providing the February 14th informal facsimile communication.

It is respectfully submitted that this Application is in condition for allowance, for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

V. Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0164-4015. **A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.**

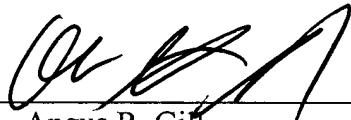
Furthermore, in the event that a further extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: March 24, 2004

By:



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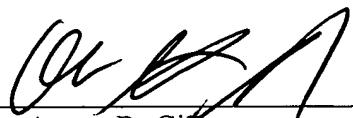
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